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## Lowell National Historical Park News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### **NEW EXHIBITS UNVEILED AT LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK VISITOR CENTER- JUNE 28, 2003**

On June 28, 2003, Lowell National Historical Park will unveil new exhibits in its Visitor Center at 246 Market Street. A short ceremony and ribbon cutting will be held at 12 noon and the public will then be invited to tour the new exhibits.

When first opened in 1982, the Visitor Center exhibits served as the primary way to tell the story of Lowell's history and significance. Since then, the park has expanded to include exhibits in the Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center, the Boott Cotton Mills Museum, and the Wannalancit Mill. Elsewhere in the city, numerous cultural institutions have been added to the city's list of visitor offerings.

Due to the impressive growth of the park and the city, the new Visitor Center exhibits, together with renovated restrooms and other space improvements, are designed to serve as a welcoming gateway and orientation to both the park and the city. The exhibits encourage visitors to explore the major park sites, the downtown area, and the many other museums and historic sites in Lowell. Three kiosks, positioned near the entrance, provide at-a-glance information about major park sites and programs, as well as other cultural attractions and events in the city. An enhanced and updated map and computer kiosk with on-line information will help visitors plan their time in Lowell.

Other features of the new exhibits are designed to spark visitors' curiosity about Lowell's heritage as an industrial city. An introductory wall depicts the "Mile of Mills" and the diverse people of Lowell. Children will enjoy playing on a section of a reproduction historic trolley. Visitors with an interest in arts and literature will have an opportunity to view "Lowell Blues," a film about Jack Kerouac and his native city, which will be screened once a day in the theater. The multi-media presentation "Lowell: The Industrial Revelation" will continue to be screened on a regular basis throughout the day.

Funding for the Visitor Center Exhibit project comes from entrance fees collected at national parks throughout the United States.